

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 25, 2003 (Paper No. 4). Claims 1 to 18 and 23 to 28 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23 and 25 are independent.

Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 13 to 15 and 19 to 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,862,049 (Sato). Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 12, 16 to 18 and 25 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sato in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,933,660 (Wynne). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sato in view of Wynne, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,051,736 (Bennett). Claims 19 to 22 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the remaining rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to the input of coordinates using a coordinate plate. The present invention's coordinate plate has a plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information each corresponding to an X-coordinate value and a plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information each corresponding to a Y-coordinate value. The plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information are formed at predetermined intervals on the coordinate plate.

With specific reference to the claims, independent Claims 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23 and 25 each recite the feature of a coordinate plate having a plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information each corresponding to an X-coordinate value and a plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information each corresponding to a Y-coordinate value,

wherein the plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information are formed at predetermined intervals on the coordinate plate.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23 and 25 and in particular, is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of a coordinate plate having a plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information each corresponding to an X-coordinate value and a plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information each corresponding to a Y-coordinate value, wherein the plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information are formed at predetermined intervals on the coordinate plate.

Sato relates to a coordinate input apparatus and control method therefor. Sato teaches a vibration transfer plate 8 and a vibration prevention member 7. Sato further teaches that vibration sensors 6a to 6h are fixed on the boundary between vibration transfer plate 8 and a vibration prevention member 7 (see Figure 1, column 2, lines 45-50). A vibration input pen 3 is used to transfer vibration to vibration plate 8. The vibrations reach vibration sensors 6a-6h with delays corresponding to the distance of the input pen from the vibration sensors. Based on these delays, the controller 1 calculates the coordinate position of the vibration input pen 3 (column 2, lines 35-65; column 3, lines 20-45).

The Office Action contends that Sato's vibration transfer plate 8 corresponds to the coordinate plate as recited by the present invention. However, Sato teaches that piezo-electric elements, namely the vibration sensors 6a to 6h, are used for converting mechanical vibrations into electrical signals. Furthermore, Sato's vibration sensors are fixed on the boundary between plate 8 and member 7. On the other hand, the

present invention teaches that a plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information corresponding to X-coordinate values and a plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information corresponding to Y-coordinate values are formed at predetermined intervals on the coordinate plate. Sato is not seen to teach that the vibration sensors 6a to 6h are coded with coordinate information, muchless that some of the vibration sensors are coded with coordinate information corresponding to X-coordinate values and some of the vibration sensors are coded with coordinate information corresponding to Y-coordinate values.

As such, Sato is not seen to disclose or suggest a coordinate plate having a plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information each corresponding to an X-coordinate value and a plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information each corresponding to a Y-coordinate value, wherein the plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information are formed at predetermined intervals on the coordinate plate.

The remaining art applied against the claims, namely Wynne and Bennett, is not seen to supply what is missing from Sato. In particular, Wynne and Bennet are not seen to disclose or suggest the feature of a coordinate plate having a plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information each corresponding to an X-coordinate value and a plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information each corresponding to a Y-coordinate value, wherein the plurality of pieces of coded coordinate information are formed at predetermined intervals on the coordinate plate. Accordingly, based on the foregoing, independent Claims 1, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23 and 25 are believed to be allowable.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same

reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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